

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 are pending in this application.

Claims 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The claims have now been amended.

Claims 6 and 7 have now been cancelled without prejudice.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 10 is allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action sets forth that each of independent claims 5 and 9 include recitations that are unclear. It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 5 and 9 are definite. Claims 5 and 9 have each now been amended and the sections listed in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have been cancelled from the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,589,672 to Uchida et al., (“Uchida”).

Claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,703,575 to Yamamoto.

Uchida describes a circuit breaker with an arc quenching device in the form of a plurality of grids 2 fixed to supporting panels 3. See Uchida, column 1, lines 12-20.

Yamamoto describes an arc extinguishing system for a contact switching apparatus that includes a plurality of arc extinguishing grid plates 7 disposed in grooves 6a of an arc box 6. See Yamamoto, column 6, lines 12-22.

Claim 5 has now been amended to recite that “the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers, first retaining elements of the cover, and pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing.” Support for this amendment may be found in previously presented claim 6 and in the Specification at, for example, paragraph [0016]. It is respectfully submitted that neither Uchida nor Yamamoto teach or suggest these features. Uchida does not describe any of the features of the guide and retaining means recited in amended claim 5. In contrast, Uchida merely discloses a series grids 2 fixed to supporting panels 3 by adhering (see Uchida, column 1, lines 12-20). Further, claim 5 now includes the subject matter of previously presented claim 6 which was not rejected in view of Uchida. Yamamoto does not describe “pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing,” as recited in amended claim 5. In contrast, Yamamoto merely describes arc extinguishing grid plates 7 that are held in grooves 6a of arc box 6 (see, Yamamoto, column 6, lines 12-22). Because neither Uchida nor Yamamoto disclose all of the features recited in claim 5, neither of these references can anticipate claim 5 or its dependent claim 8.

Claim 9 has now been amended to recite:

cooling plate guide and retaining elements comprising inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers, first retaining elements of the cover and pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing; and

arc splitter stack guide and retaining elements comprising inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chamber and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover.

Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0016] and [0017] of the Specification. It is respectfully submitted that neither Uchida nor Yamamoto teach or suggest these features. For example, as set forth above with respect to claim 5, neither Uchida nor Yamamoto teach or suggest pocket-like formations in the bottom of the housing as recited in amended claim 9. Because neither Uchida nor Yamamoto teach or suggest these features, neither reference can anticipate claim 9.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Uchida and the rejection of claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Yamamoto is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/575,922
Amendment dated April 18, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 7, 2008

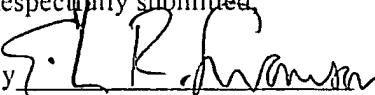
Docket No.: 20798/0204630-US0

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: April 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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